


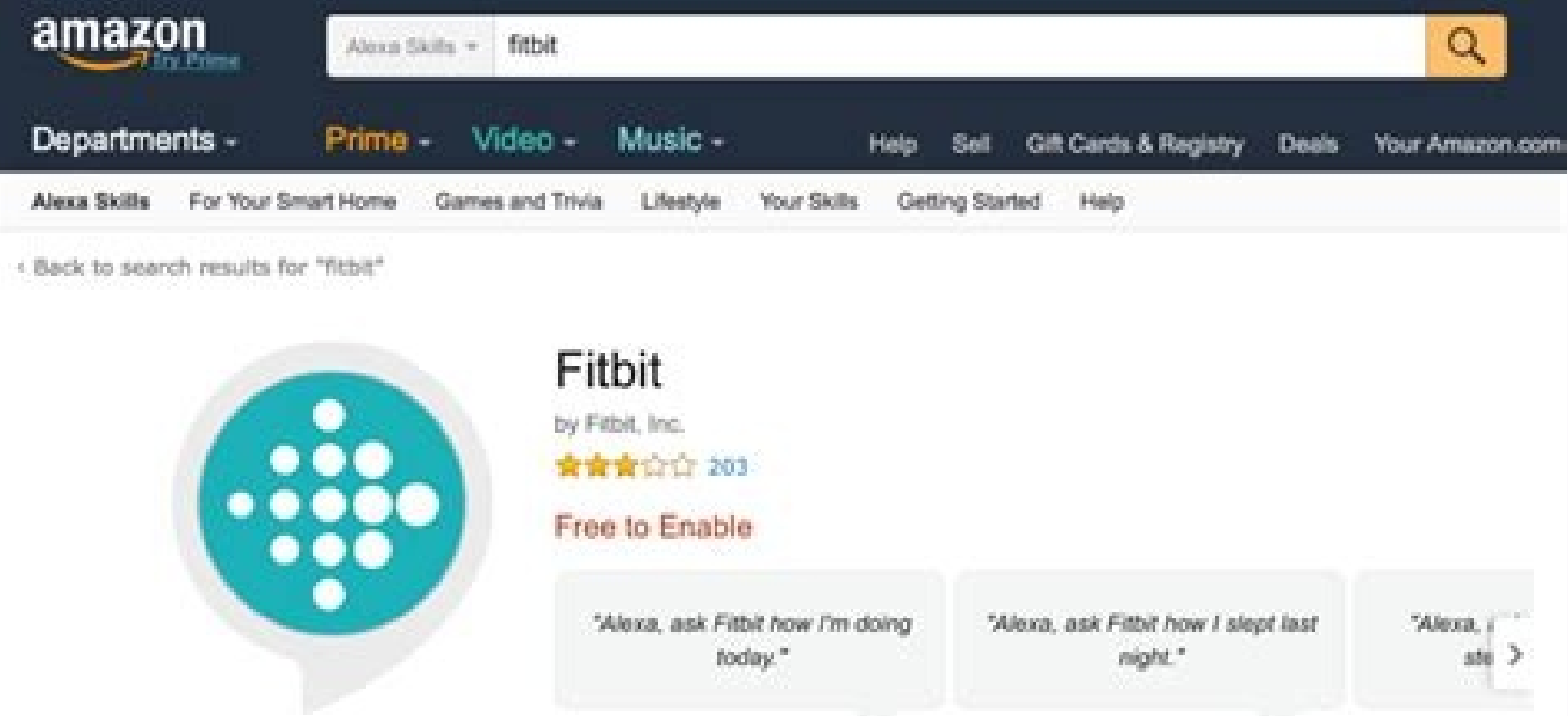
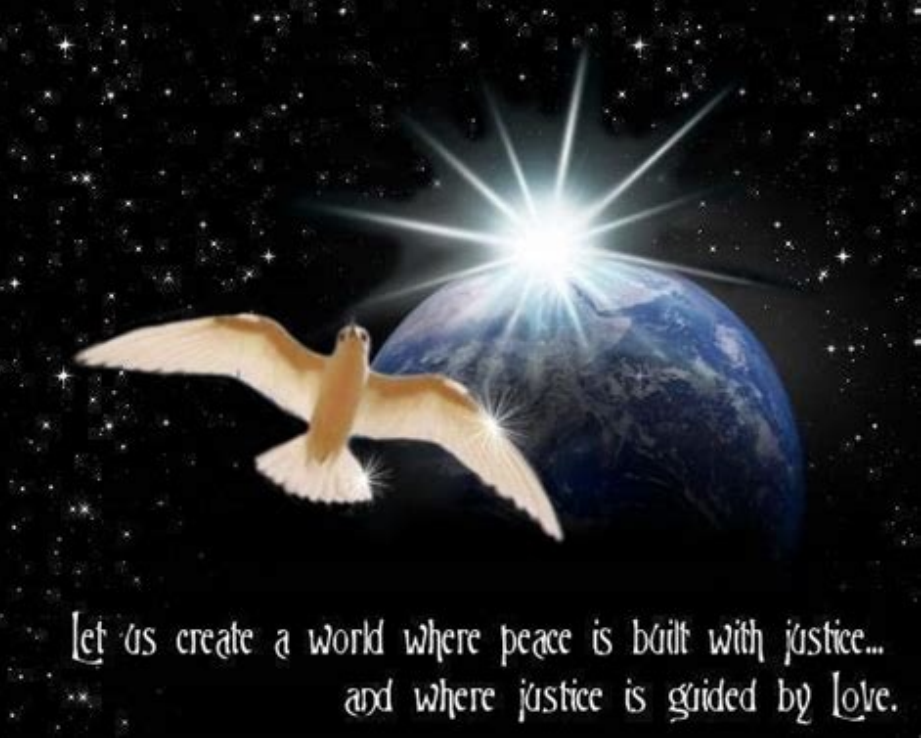
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Obviously you don't want a front line that is only one soldier deep, with 9 out of ten reloading, so you organise them in ranks and files, ranks being the lines parallel to the front and files being the lines formed behind each soldier on the front rank. so I can shoot it. I'm also going to try out the idea of a plastic collar that fits round the cap and is held by the cock so that there is no possibility of the cock hitting the cap and firing the gun - I'm not sure the idea will get universal approval, but I'll test it out myself. In fact as time passed many different schemes of firing were tried in an attempt to create the optimum fire pattern, sometimes organised so that if necessary more than 1/4 of the available muskets could be brought to bear in one volley, for instance against a cavalry charge when it would be all over in the time it took to reload. It has the usual continental decoration of raised design against a punched background - possibly etched before punching - rather fine when viewed under the microscope. I also have a cooker control on the panel I can switch in to control the rate of cooling if necessary. On the mechanics of running this blog site, I was getting about a thousand attempts to hack the site every day - I keep a careful eye on who gets blocked by my security software for trying to hack the site, and every so often I spot a persistent attacker and contact their Internet Service Provider and ask them to stop the abuse - last time it cut the attacks down to 300 per day. I was intending to photograph it but by the time we had had a cup of tea the light was too bad. I hate the thought of the £10K depreciation in the first couple of years, and I'm not afraid of cars that have done a high mileage, but as fuel economy has improved dramatically in recent years its better to get a newish car - my preference is therefore to let someone else take the edge off the price. 17th July - I put up a full post on the furnace for info.....See 'Heat Treatment Furnace' I have almost finished the tang of 'another one of Dick's funny pistols' - just got to put some structure on the raised bits, but it looks better than I expected so far..... Some of the leaves are quite dead, but there are enough to keep it alive, I hope. It looks as if the electrics will suffice with the addition of a few more sockets - its all in a plastic skirting board trunking with built in sockets, so its a matter of trying to find the same system now - under the current regulations its possible to extend existing ring mains without having it certified, so I'll do that. I could actually do with some more myself as the nipples in my 'working' muzzle loading double are getting a bit mushroomed and the caps don't fit properly - I did try to grind them a little on my fine diamond hone, so I think that will act as a holding operation! I might have a go at making some more titanium nipples - the last ones were good, although its early days yet as they have only fired 30 or 40 shots so far. I can look at the IP addresses of every hacker who visits the site and what they are trying to do, and it is fairly easy to identify particular networks of bots under a single control as they follow a pattern - some networks only use each computer once, but some repeat attacks from the same IP address. Up to then it was considered advantageous to hold your fire until the enemy had advanced to within around 20 meters or less of your position - hence 'wait 'til you can see the whites of their eyes'. Here is a view of the beach at Hayle- Low tide this is the channel into Hayle Harbour - a tall entrance at other than high tide. Interestingly he says brass, which he specifies as an alloy of tin and copper that we would now call bronze, brass being the name we now give to predominantly copper - zinc alloys, is twice as strong as wrought iron or cast steel! Talking of ordnance (cannon) he says that wrought iron is seldom used as it is not very strong, and that cast steel forms large, weak crystals when used in large masses as it cools slowly (can be true but is not the full story). He had a bullet mould with his that didn't have the spigot on the base that holds the wad on the original Adams revolvers - I don't know when it was dropped. 28th July - Where has the summer gone? My visitor brought a nice 16 bore percussion rifle with a fairly authentic looking peep sight on the back, although like my Samuel Nock rifle, the pinhole in its lowest position is much higher than the bead of the foresight, so it won't sight at shorter ranges. I must put another switch on the panel to disconnect the PID output so I can just use it as a temperature readout while it cools. He develops this argument and then attempts to prove that very short barrels are as effective as long ones and that one can effectively 'do execution' with a 40 bore pistol with a 10 inch barrel at 300 to 400 yards if one can get round the problem of a very short sighting base. I had another look at the Lees 8 bore percussion gun that I described earlier as a wildfowl gun, but we decided that it wasn't heavy enough - wildfowl guns were meant to shoot large shot loads and were pretty heavy to control the resultant recoil - this was only about 7 to 8 lbs, so was probably a live pigeon gun. That leaves the internal detail to be done. Here is our picture 'Dear Friends' by Siobhan Purdy - an artist who is going places! 4th September Pretty wet this morning, but we went and moved the dinghy from Mylor to Penryn Harbour (near Penzance) so that we could sail a new bit of coast, but the weather tomorrow looks a bit hairy with 25 knot winds. I'd had it for years and it wasn't doing anything for me, except reminding me all the time of the jobs I still had to do so I passed it on to a good home. I managed most of the shoot on an old flint that looked so bad that I got teased about it - it carried on working for a good few shots before bits cracked off and I had to replace it. It doesn't look much like progress - but it IS coming together, we keep telling ourselves! My plastering doesn't look too bad with a little local rectification - its now gently rolling hills instead of a mountain range! Its mostly going to be covered up anyway. did it work? A similar 'elbow' fixed to the other end of the shaft cocks the left hammer to half cock. I wasn't absolutely sure if the metal in the envelope really got as hot as the furnace, but it took almost an hour to get up to temperature, and I held it there for at least 20 minutes and cooled if very slowly, so I guess it did. Anyway its yet another problem to overcome, or else we'll have to take them all back for a refund, which will be a monumental pain - life is like that, no job is straightforward! 8th October - A day catching up with domestic duties like fixing the mower and mowing the lawns! I went over to Dick's for the first time in a couple of weeks to collect the Stephen Grant that we had repaired the cock of some time ago as I need to return it tomorrow. Further refinements included the provision of a 'bridle' to support the inner end of the tumbler shaft, and of a bracket to hold the outboard end of the frizzen pivot. My training in infantry tactics goes slowly but I now understand the limitations of platoon firing that left chunks of the front line unloaded and vulnerable. We need to sand and pre-oil the Walnut worktops before they go in, then we can fix the tiles after cutting them round the electrics, which will be quite a challenge. A similar elbow is fixed on the other end of the cross shaft. Simple really - more or less the same powder charge for the same shot load whatever the bore size (within sensible limits - probably works for 16 to 12 bore?). We decided against putting a spurious name on the lacplate in a fit of moral rectitude, despite the fact that its a Blackley casting! Talking of which, I have been trying to persuade Dick that its wrong to put conjectural bits on the 1630 blunderbuss just because the owner asked him to make it look good - I was telling him that he ought to be awkward, like me. 13th September - Life is rushing by! Giles's flat looms in a couple of weeks - the buying has taken 6 months so far - incredible. The basic idea is that the flywheel is in two parts, one part attached to the crankshaft and one to the clutch assembly, the two parts being linked by springs so that the pulses in rotation caused by the cylinders firing compress the springs which then give back the energy before the next pulse - its a very complex spring system and is carefully tuned to smooth out resonances and reduce stress in the drive components. What about intending 'one day' to shoot my section 58(2) Gibbs-Farquerson falling block rifle (Obsolete calibre - Gibbs No 2)? All a bit involved - the existing arrangement looks a bit of a mess, as does a lot of the plastic trunking! I don't want to rewire the flat, but I think a bit of re-arrangement of the trunking is going to be essential to improve the look of the place. I now need to replace the trunking skirting as I want to skim the walls, and can't get more sockets to fit that trunking. 23rd October - Just had an email from my rifle club saying that Cams Firearms Licensing are (at random) asking GPs for medical information when they receive a renewal or new application for a shotgun or firearms license and either they, or the GP are asking holders for a fee for supplying the information. This is contrary to Home Office Guidance and to the agreement made by Doctors representatives with the government during negotiations. The advice from BASC (and clubs is that you should not pay. If you don't pay the firearms officer must, if a letter to the contrary is not received from the GP within 21 days, assume that there is no medical reason to withhold a certificate..... Giles's flat kitchen has started to look a bit better now - the tiling is done, the worktops are in and the wiring is functioning - I was particularly pleased with the bank of switches and sockets in the tiles that have slate effect pop-on fronts and line up and fit perfectly - as Giles's cousin says, it is a masculine looking kitchen, but that is appropriate! Inspecting the consumer unit I discovered that it only takes circuit breakers and switches etc that are of one particular make and design - I really hate proprietary bits and pieces - I found that the consumer units in our house were a proprietary design that became obsolete about ten years after fitting, so spares had to be located at great expense. The electrics in the flat were a bit hairy - there is a protective RCD on the power sockets, but the metal radiant heater on the wall of the bathroom has none! I am fairly gun-ho about some risks, but that is a step too far for me!..... I came home from the flat late and had to fix the number plate light on the Landcruiser as it has to have an MOT tomorrow - like many old LCs the bottom of the lift up gun books - some inherited but a lot purchased at considerable expense and am always on the lookout for anything original. I'll picture them all on separate posts for simplicity - J Lang Pinfire 16 bore (mine), J Lang 14 bore double and Gibbs and Hill 10 bore. The gun has sling swivels as was common on continental shotguns, and the chambers appear to be highly tapered for the first 1.5 cm, loosing at least .5mm in diameter - I don't have a 16 bore snap cap or cartridges to try.) 30th Sept is our flintlock competition with Anglian Muzzle Loaders - I'll take part for the first time! I suddenly remembered that school term had started and there would be loads of Governor meeting - I always forget to log onto the secure email server for governors, but when I did there were the calls to action (or inaction!)..... All it points to the need for us to join both the MLAGB and BASC, who work hard to protect our sport. In the afternoon we did our annual scour of the galleries in Marazion but didn't see anything we felt compelled to buy! It is, however, cheering to see pictures by artists whose work we bought in previous visits increasing in price! Now anything by Fred Yates fetches a mint, even a few square inches of quick watercolour, and the quirky artist Siobhan Purdy we liked on a previous visit is getting something of a cult following! Anyway, apart from the news that the Sensitive plant is looking better by the day, and the cockerel at home hasn't attacked our house sitters, that is enough news for now! I've been reading up on my infantry tactics in case I find myself in command of a company of musketeers. Could probably do with a bit of rusting etc! It looks a bit new. 4th October - Still working at destroying the kitchen! All the units have gone and the inside of the flimsy studwork outside wall has been stripped and the rather skimpy insulation removed, was it ever patented? 15th August. A later writer (1880) in the same book wondered where all the game had gone, speculating that it might have gone elsewhere, or, just possibly, been shot to extinction! I wonder how much habitat loss there had been by 1890? 15th October - I went to look at the Hawkes and Moseley pistol that Dick is restoring for me - you would not recognise it as the same pistol, it looks fantastic - the barrel has browned beautifully and Dick restored the flats a little so it looks like new. 8th July - a day away from reading patents! Got the boat ready for sailing tomorrow, we are missing out on our Hebridian charter this year as our crew is unavailable - so are taking every opportunity to sail the dinghy. (p.s. it cracked from the shock of hitting the firing pin and surrounding nut as there was a fault in the metal almost fully across the spur). I conveniently found an auction description (Holts Dec 2013 Lot 965) that confirms Collard chambered guns as antiques if kept as an ornament or curiosity - which it certainly is - so no certificate needed! It is difficult to exaggerate the power of the internet as a source of information! He also pointed me to a website with a host of information on Collath shotguns, rifles and drillings and their special cartridges. I'm not sure when Ed Blackley started - (I must ask him, he's a friend of Dicks and lives nearby) - he started not far from Framlingham I wonder if there was a connection? I did discover that you can take any gun to the proof house and bring it back as a section 58 firearm - i.e. without it being on a firearms certificate. 13th July As a break from hunting patents and publications on the web I engraved the lock of 'another funny gun' of Dick's to match the other borders, and invented a small motif for the tail as ordered, something a bit unusual was the order. In truth a lot of the aspects of firearms law are a bit woolly where antiques are concerned - the difference between say a .577 Enfield rifle kept as an 'ornament' or 'curio' and one kept with the 'intention' to shoot is clearly all in the mind - the first is section 58(2) and can be freely kept and displayed (as long as I don't have a criminal conviction) but the second is a section 1 firearm and I can get a mandatory prison sentence for having it without putting it on my certificate, and it has to be locked away! What is more, I think I can swap it back and forth, and in theory leave the slot for it on my certificate even when I've reverted it to my collection at section 58 as long as I notify them each time, although I don't think that would make me very popular. 30th October - I've been oiling the worktops in Giles's flat when I picked them up a couple of hours later they were very hot! I carefully put today's on a piece of metal and bought them home again - this time they were cold but the paper was badly scorched and brittle! So be warned - the most dangerous combination is when fine steel wool, itself highly inflammable, has been used with linseed oil mix to rub down a stock. I burnt a hole half way through a 3/4 inch MDF benchtop with a spark from a grinder landing on a dry lump of 0000 steel wool the size of a bar of soap - I was lucky not to burn down the workshop as I didn't see it 'til days later! - with oil it probably wouldn't need the spark). 15th September - Oh dear, I picked up the copy of Wyatt Earps book, 'He Carried a Six Shooter' that I bought to take on holiday and couldn't put it down so its now well past midnight (strictly the 16th) and I haven't done anything constructive!.....too late now..... I had a bin attached to the tube that held my shot and powder flasks, but they tended to fall out if I left them in while carrying the tube - I have now attached a piece of 1 1/2 inch plastic tube to hold my sectional unloading rod with worm, and changed the bin for a smaller, deeper one so the powder flask doesn't fallout. I'll have to do an internet search, there is bound to be a Youtube on it. I have been reading one of my old books in the 'Badminton' series on big game hunting - this

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